[29th October 1935

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" There must be such kinds of works which would fit in with the scheme which we have formulated and which, when put into execution, would incidentally go to relieve unemployment."

Revival of the activities of the Labour Department in the districts.

* 229 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the new principle adopted by the Government for the revival of the Labour department in the districts in which the operation of the department was suspended is;

(*b*) in how many districts the Labour department is working at present; and

(*c*) what steps the Government are taking for the extension of the operation of the Labour department in all the districts of the Presidency?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The work of the Labour department was closed down in five districts in 1931–32 as a measure of retrenchment. The Government have at present no proposals in hand for reviving the operations in these districts or for extending the work to new districts. The question will be considered when funds permit. Government have not adopted any new principle in the matter.

(*b*) In fifteen districts.

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—" The answer says: 'the work of the Labour department was closed down in five districts in 1931–32 as a measure of retrenchment.' May I know whether the Government ever thought of this question subsequent to 1932?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" We were constantly looking into this question and we have said that when funds are available we would extend the activities of this department."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" May I know whether the Labour Commissioner has submitted proposals for bringing some other district under the Labour department and whether any report has been received from him?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" I do not think any report has been received, but I know he is considering this question."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" May I know what are the activities which will be undertaken by the Labour department if the Government decide to extend their activities?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" The activities will depend upon the amount available at the disposal of the Government."